

Activities of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group, 06-307

Abstract: The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (Working Group) was formed in 1988 by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in response to requests from stakeholders in the Kuskokwim River drainage seeking a more active role in the management of salmon fishery resources. Since then, the Working Group has become increasingly active in the preseason, inseason, and postseason management of the Kuskokwim River drainage subsistence, commercial, and sport salmon fisheries. In 2001, the Working Group modified its charter in order to more effectively address the needs of the Federal Subsistence Management Program by including members of the Coordinating Fisheries Committee of the Yukon–Kuskokwim Delta and Western Interior Regional Advisory Councils. The Working Group further modified its charter in 2005 to include representation from the far upriver communities that had not previously had a voice on the Working Group. The Working Group now serves as a public forum through which Federal and State fisheries managers meet with local users of the salmon resource to review run assessment information and reach a consensus on how to proceed with management of Kuskokwim River salmon fisheries. The Working Group met 14 times in 2005 and 10 times in 2006. In 2006 the Fisheries Information Services (FIS) Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFW) Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) provided funding for inseason support of the Working Group under the Inseason Support for Cooperative Management of the Kuskokwim River Subsistence Fishery project (FIS 06-307). The first meetings of the year were in March of 2005 and May 2006 with intensive and frequent meetings during June, July, and August; and summary and review session in September of both years. Working Group meetings provide the forum for area fishers, user representatives, community representatives, Regional Advisory Council representatives, Fish and Game Advisory Committee members, and State and Federal managers to come together to discuss issues relevant to sustained yield fishery management and providing for the subsistence use priority.

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